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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/836,631	04/17/2001	David A. Hughes	50P4092	7211

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Miller Patent Services
2500 Dockery Lane
Raleigh, NC 27606

EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/836,631

Applicant(s)

HUGHES ET AL.

Examiner

Cristina O Sherr

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New

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the Application filed 17 April 2001. Claims 1-28 have been examined in this case.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. According to the face of the Application file, Applicants may have submitted an IDS form on 21 January 2003. Currently, no such IDS form appears in the file. Applicants are requested to verify the enclosed signed IDS forms and resubmit an IDS form corresponding to any references not listed as considered by the Examiner. The Office regrets any inconvenience caused to Applicants.

Specification

3. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.
4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Downs et al (US 6,226,618B1).
6. Regarding claim 1 –

Downs discloses a method of facilitating a transaction for downloadable digital data over an electronic network, the method comprising: maintaining a presence on the electronic network to which a consumer may connect; transmitting a page from the presence to the consumer over the electronic network, the page including information concerning the downloadable digital data; receiving a command from the consumer over the electronic network indicating that the consumer wishes the transaction for the downloadable digital data; and transmitting format options from the presence to the consumer over the electronic network via the page, the format options being selectable by the consumer and including at least one of (i) types of software on which the downloadable digital data may be executed; (ii) types of portable devices on which the downloadable digital data may be stored; (iii) types of compression formats in which the downloadable digital data may be configured; (iv) types of CODECs through which the downloadable digital data may be processed; and (v) types of digital rights management algorithms to which the downloadable digital data may be subject (e.g. col 3 ln 40-55).

7. Regarding claim 2 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 1, wherein at least one of (i) a given type of software is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of compression formats, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types of portable devices; (ii) a given type of compression format is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types of portable devices; (iii) a given type of digital rights management algorithm is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types

of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of portable devices; and
(iv) a given type of portable device is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of digital rights management algorithms (e.g. col 14 ln 18-45).

8. Regarding claim 3 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 2, further comprising permitting selection by the consumer from among only the compatible respective subsets of at least one of the types of compression formats, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types of portable devices, when the given type of software is selected by the consumer (e.g. col 14 ln 18-45).

9. Regarding claim 4 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 2, further comprising permitting selection by the consumer from among only the compatible respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types of portable devices, when the given type of compression format is selected by the consumer (e.g. col 11 ln 30-54).

10. Regarding claim 5 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 2, further comprising permitting selection by the consumer from among only the compatible respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of portable devices, when the given type of digital rights management algorithm is selected by the consumer (e.g. col 11 ln 30-54).

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11. Regarding claim 6 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 2, further comprising permitting selection by the consumer from among only the compatible respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of digital rights management algorithms, when the given type of portable device is selected by the consumer (e.g. col 11 ln 56 – col 12 ln 6).

12. Regarding claim 7 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the downloadable digital data includes at least one of audio data, video data, and text data (e.g. col 6 ln 37-64).

13. Regarding claim 8 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 1, wherein each type of software, each type of compression format, each type of digital rights management algorithm, and each type of portable device is displayed on the page and selectable by way of activation by the consumer (e.g. col 11 ln 56 – col 12 ln 6).

14. Regarding claim 9 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 8, further comprising receiving the consumer's selection of at least one of the type of software, the type of compression format, the type of digital rights management algorithm, and the type of portable device, over the electronic network at the presence (e.g. col 6 ln 37-64).

15. Regarding claim 10 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 9, further comprising transmitting the downloadable digital data to the consumer over the electronic network in a format

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consistent with at least one of the selected type of software, the selected type of compression format, the selected type of digital rights management algorithm, and the selected type of portable device (e.g. col 6 ln 37-64).

16. Regarding claim 11 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising storing at least one of the selected type of software, the selected type of compression format, the selected type of digital rights management algorithm, and the selected type of portable device (e.g. col 6 ln 37-64).

17. Regarding claim 12 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 11, further comprising designating the stored type of software, type of compression format, type of digital rights management algorithm, and type of portable device as default format options and transmitting the default format options from the presence to the consumer over the electronic network via the page in response to another command from the consumer over the electronic network indicating that the consumer wishes another transaction for downloadable digital data (e.g. col 6 ln 37-64).

18. Regarding claim 13 –

Downs discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the portable devices on which the downloadable digital data may be stored are compliant with secure digital music initiative (SDMI) specifications (e.g. col 6 ln 49-56).

19. Regarding claim 14 –

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Downs discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the electronic network is the Internet and the presence is a web site thereon (e.g. col 8 ln 41-53).

20. Regarding claim 15 –

Downs discloses a system for facilitating a transaction for downloadable digital data over an electronic network, comprising: means for maintaining a presence on the electronic network to which a consumer may connect; means for transmitting a page from the presence to the consumer over the electronic network, the page including information concerning the downloadable digital data; means for receiving a command from the consumer over the electronic network indicating that the consumer wishes the transaction for the downloadable digital data; and means for transmitting format options from the presence to the consumer over the electronic network via the page, the format options being selectable by the consumer and including at least one of (i) types of software on which the downloadable digital data may be executed; (ii) types of portable devices on which the downloadable digital data may be stored; (iii) types of compression formats in which the downloadable digital data may be configured; (iv) types of CODECs through which the downloadable digital data may be processed; and (v) types of digital rights management algorithms to which the downloadable digital data may be subject (e.g. col 3 ln 40-55).

21. Regarding claim 16 –

Downs discloses the system of claim 15, wherein at least one of (i) a given type of software is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of compression formats, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types

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of portable devices; (ii) a given type of compression format is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types of portable devices; (iii) a given type of digital rights management algorithm is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of portable devices; and (iv) a given type of portable device is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of digital rights management algorithms (e.g. col 11 ln 56 – col 12 ln 6).

22. Regarding claim 17 –

Downs discloses the system of claim 15, wherein the downloadable digital data includes at least one of audio data, video data, and text data (e.g. col 6 ln 45-48).

23. Regarding claim 18 –

downs discloses the system of claim 15, wherein each type of software, each type of compression format, each type of digital rights management algorithm, and each type of portable device is displayed on the page and selectable by way of activation by the consumer (e.g. col 6 ln 2-56).

24. Regarding claim 19 –

Downs discloses the system of claim 15, further comprising means for transmitting the downloadable digital data to the consumer over the electronic network in a format consistent with at least one of the selected type of software, the selected type of compression format, the selected type of digital rights management algorithm, and the selected type of portable device (e.g. col 6 ln 2-56).

25. Regarding claim 20 –

Downs discloses the system of claim 15, wherein the portable devices on which the downloadable digital data may be stored are compliant with secure digital music initiative (SDMI) specifications (e.g. col 11 ln 30-54).

26. Regarding claim 21 –

Downs discloses the system of claim 15, wherein the electronic network is the Internet and the presence is a web site thereon (e.g. col 8 ln 41-53).

27. Regarding claim 22 –

Downs discloses an electronic storage medium for storing instructions which, when executed by a programmable controller, carry out a method for facilitating a transaction for downloadable digital data over an electronic network, comprising: maintaining a presence on the electronic network to which a consumer may connect; transmitting a page from the presence to the consumer over the electronic network, the page including information concerning the downloadable digital data; receiving a command from the consumer over the electronic network indicating that the consumer wishes the transaction for the downloadable digital data; and transmitting format options from the presence to the consumer over the electronic network via the page, the format options being selectable by the consumer and including at least one of (i) types of software on which the downloadable digital data may be executed; (ii) types of portable devices on which the downloadable digital data may be stored; (iii) types of compression formats in which the downloadable digital data may be configured; (iv) types of CODECs through which the downloadable digital data may be processed; and (v) types of digital rights

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management algorithms to which the downloadable digital data may be subject (e.g. col 3 ln 40-55).

28. Regarding claim 23 –

Downs discloses the electronic storage medium of claim 22, wherein at least one of (i) a given type of software is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of compression formats, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types of portable devices; (ii) a given type of compression format is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of digital rights management algorithms, and the types of portable devices; (iii) a given type of digital rights management algorithm is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of portable devices; and (iv) a given type of portable device is compatible with respective subsets of at least one of the types of software, the types of compression formats, and the types of digital rights management algorithms (e.g. col 11 ln 56 – col 12 ln 6).

29. Regarding claim 24 –

Downs discloses the electronic storage medium of claim 22, wherein the downloadable digital data includes at least one of audio data, video data, and text data (e.g. col 6 ln 45-48).

30. Regarding claim 25 –

Downs discloses the electronic storage medium of claim 22, wherein each type of software, each type of compression format, each type of digital rights management

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algorithm, and each type of portable device is displayed on the page and selectable by way of activation by the consumer (e.g. col 6 ln 2-56).

31. Regarding claim 26 –

Downs discloses the electronic storage medium of claim 22, further comprising means for transmitting the downloadable digital data to the consumer over the electronic network in a format consistent with at least one of the selected type of software, the selected type of compression format, the selected type of digital rights management algorithm, and the selected type of portable device (e.g. col 6 ln 2-56).

32. Regarding claim 27 –

Downs discloses the electronic storage medium of claim 22, wherein the portable devices on which the downloadable digital data may be stored are compliant with secure digital music initiative (SDMI) specifications (e.g. col 6 ln 2-56).

33. Regarding claim 28 –

Downs discloses the electronic storage medium of claim 22, wherein the electronic network is the Internet and the presence is a web site thereon (e.g. col 8 ln 41-53).

34. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part

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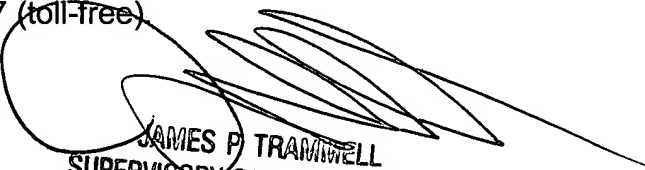
of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

35. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

36. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

37. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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